

A Treasured Family Album

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The first time I came across *Wasafiri* was in 1986, at a moment when I was toying with the idea of embarking on a doctorate in Caribbean Literature. *Wasafiri* was brought to my attention by the late Hena Maes-Jelinek, the well-known Wilson Harris specialist, who was then Professor of Commonwealth Literature at the University of Liege in Belgium and was to become my doctoral supervisor. Hena had a knack of passing on the research bug to her students, and introducing me to *Wasafiri* proved to be another part of her infallible strategy. The journal opened up a world of exciting literary discoveries and encounters and I quickly became addicted, like many others, to its distinctive combination of academic and creative writing, each new issue bringing its fresh load of essays, interviews, poems, stories and reviews by writers from all over the world. Looking at my almost complete collection now – only three numbers are missing – brings home how much *Wasafiri* has been part of my life as a student, teacher and researcher, and reminds me of the conferences I attended, the people I met, the books I loved, the friends I made, in the way of a treasured family album.

Thanks to a team of dedicated editors and collaborators, *Wasafiri* has contributed decisively to the success of the field of postcolonial literatures. Over the years it has remained at once informative and intellectually challenging, and has also given us some of the most striking and beautiful covers ever seen. It is now my turn to pass on the baton to a new generation of researchers and it seems that, even if the context has dramatically changed, *Wasafiri* remains as much of an incentive for the budding scholar as it was back in the 1980s.